their paper is being used by newspapers and its quality is found satisfactory by them, are being considered by Government for inclusion in Schedule I to the Newsprint Control Order, 1962, declaring them as mills manufacturing newsprint. Similarly for paper industry fresh capacity is being permitted. LOIs and IEMs for a capacity of 59.90 lakh tonnes have been filed upto 31.1.95 for various varieties of Paper & Paper Board.

(d) The Newsprint Import Policy is reviewed by the Government from time to time and suitable amendments are considered as and when necessary.

Reference of Toshiba Anand to BIFR

1585. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) when the case of Toshiba Anand Company was referred to BIFR;

(b) how many sittings have since taken place alongwith the dates of each sittings;

(c) how many employees were on the roll when it was referred to BIFR;

(d) what was the reserve price fixed for the company by BIFR;

(e) what were its assets and liabilities;

(f) what was its capacity of production of dry cells and other items;

(g) whether any proposal was placed before BIFR by trade unions to take over and run it as workers co-operative, if so, the details of the project and the reaction of BIFR towards it;

(h) whether the State Government supported the proposal and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(i) what other steps are being considered to revive the sick company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (i) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Growth in industrial production

1586. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of growth of industrial production in the country since 1990-91;

(b) whether this rate is higher or lower than the rate of industrial growth during the 1980s; and

(c) the factors underlying such an increase or a decrease in the rate of growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) As per the quick index of industrial production the rate of growth of industrial production since 1990-91 has been as follows:

Year	Rate of Growth
1990-91	8.3%
1991-92	0.6%
1992-93	2.3%
1993-94	4.4%
1994-95 (April—November)	8.7%

(b) The rate of growth of industrial production during the 1980s had averaged 7.8%.

(c) The industrial production in 1991-92 to 1993-94 was constrained by balance of payment crisis of 1990-91 which required an import squeeze, the tight monetary policy pursued to contain inflation which affected the demand and raised the cost of borrowing and a fall in investment demand due to reduction in public expenditure and investment.

Increasing the prices of newsprint by NEPA

1587. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NEPA, a PSU, producing newsprint, has raised its price four times in the last four months;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the last five years the NEPA has raised newsprint prices nine times by a total of 158 per cent:

(c) whether it is a fact that private sector paper units have also followed suit;

(d) whether it is a fact that all this increase in paper prices is affecting the spread of literacy in general and the press in particular;

(e) whether Government would consider improving and economising the working of NEPA to bring down its prices; and

(f) whether Government propose to consider privatising NEPA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) No, Sir. Nepa has increased prices 3 times in the last 4 months.

(b) No, Sir. Nepa has increased prices eight times by a total of 83% in the last five years.

(c) and (d) Increase in price is related with various factors like cost of inputs, overall market situation etc. There is no statutory control over the prices of indigenous newsprint. The import of newsprint has also been decanalised w.e.f. 1.4.1992. The price of imported Newsprint has also gone up substantially.

(e) and (f) For upgradation of technology in Nepa Limited as a long term measure, Government has decided to invite offers for participation of Private Sector in the Company.

Increase in price of newsprint

1588. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Newspaper Society have expressed shock over the increase in the prices of newsprint recently;

(b) if so, the total amount of increase of newsprint effected during the last one year;

(c) whether the increase in newsprint has adversely affected the newspaper organisations; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to reconsider its decision and to bring down the prices of newsprint in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement on the increase in the price of newsprint by the major newsprint mills in Public Sector during the last year is attached. (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) have represented to the Government against increase in the prices of newsprint. There is no statutory control over the prices of